U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY
www.cma.army.mil

CMA NEWS

March 2012

CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of February 20, 2012:

Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.: The first reduction in force (RIF) for Anniston government employees is scheduled early next month. The RIF is a result of the Anniston Chemical Activity transition from its chemical munitions storage mission to closure. Employees will be able to attend job fairs and transition briefings hosted by Operation 1st RATE (Ready, Able, Trained Employees). Operation 1st RATE will help employees find information about new jobs and how to apply for them. The organization also provides educational information and a career coach who can recommend new career paths. Operation 1st RATE is funded by a grant from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment.

Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.: Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) school and community tours have begun and will run through May. BGCA workforce will participate in a tour of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, and the BGCA will host Pattie A. Clay Hospital Board of Directors March 22. BGCA will also host a Public Affairs IPT on April 11 and provide a tour and demonstration of the mock igloo. BGCA leadership is continuously involved in speakers' bureau events to educate local communities on safe storage and build stronger community relationships. BGCA is now available to view and "like" on Facebook. Please let them hear from you!

Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah: The Deseret Chemical Depot's stockpile—once the largest single stockpile in the country with more than 1.1 million munitions and more than 13,600 tons of chemical agents—has been destroyed. The last remaining 155 mm mustard projectiles were destroyed at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility on Jan. 18, and a few days later, on Jan. 21, the last lewisite ton container was destroyed at the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator. Meanwhile, demolition of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System started on Feb. 14, and is expected to continue for the next three months.

Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) is using Unventilated Monitoring Tests to determine if equipment, buildings and areas are clear of potential agent contamination. These tests are part of the PBCDF closure plan and are a significant milestone in safe and environmentally compliant closure activities. On Feb. 3, the Southwest Research Institute laboratory subcontractor reached the safety milestone of working two million man hours without a lost work day away case. In addition, PBCDF employees worked more than 5.7 million man hours without a lost work day case. These were achieved while the site performs closure and demolition activities.

Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo.: Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) stores mustard-filled munitions: 105 mm projectiles and cartridges, 155 mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortar cartridges. PCD is preparing for a Department of the Army Inspector General Chemical Surety Inspection this month.

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) processed more than 242,000 pounds of secondary waste through the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF). Removal of Agent Collection System and Rinsate Collection System (RCS) piping continues in the Toxic Cubicle, Spent Decontamination System and other plant areas. RCS tank removal, which requires cutting with plasma-arc welders, began Feb. 17. Permit Modification Requests, recently submitted to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding treatment of spent carbon in the MPF and the MPF Carbon Trial Burn Plan, are currently in DEQ's public comment period. Final DEQ review of public comments and its implementation of changes continue. Closure plan approval is anticipated mid-July 2012.

Whyne receives Ancient Order of the Dragon Award

Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command presents Conrad Whyne, Program Executive Officer (PEO), U.S. Army Element Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives and former Director, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency with the Ancient Order of the Dragon Award. The Chemical Corps Regimental Association (CCRA) presents this award to CCRA and Chemical Corps members who have "demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, an outstanding degree of professional competence and have contributed to the promotion of the Chemical Corps in numerous ways over the course of their career."

CAMDS Demolition Underway

Nearly 40 years after its construction began, the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) is being torn down. Demolition got into full swing on Feb. 14 as crews started to tear apart the Equipment Test Facility. A handful of employees watched as the massive equipment easily tore through the structure.

"Wow," said Tim Hutson, URS CAMDS closure project manager. "We are finally here."

Readying CAMDS for demolition started in 2006. Non-toxic structures and equipment were torn down and recycled, if possible, (such as the iconic water tower), salvaged (the 1940s CAMDS railcar that is now at a Utah museum) or sent off-site for reuse (the explosive containment cubicle that is now at the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center). All equipment andstructures that were or possibly could have come into contact with chemical agent were decontaminated and decommissioned. Thorough tests and monitoring were then conducted to ensure contamination levels were within accepted safety limits before demolition began.

Soil sampling will continue during the early part of demolition. Nearly 150 samples will be taken from areas that are known or suspected to be contaminated by either chemical agents, metals, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or semi-VOCs.

"All of the soil samples will be taken before demolition starts in that particular area so that the soil being sampled remains undisturbed," explained Heather Jansen, CAMDS field office lead.

The soil sampling is required under the CAMDS closure permit and will determine if additional remediation will be needed once demolition and debris cleanup is finished. URS CAMDS Demolition Project Manager, Randy Fowles, said the demolition schedule will be closely coordinated with the transportation of debris, which will be taken to a permitted hazardous waste landfill for disposal. Fowles said demolition of CAMDS will continue over the next few months and is expected to be completed by the end of May.

For 25 years, from September 1979 to January 2005, CAMDS developed and tested methods for destroying chemical weapons. Its research encompassed all aspects of chemical demilitarization, from the proper handling of munitions to the treatment and disposal of secondary waste.

"CAMDS was the foundation on which all other chemical weapons destruction facilities, including TOCDF, were based," said CAMDS Site Project Manager Jerry Linn. "The work done here at CAMDS should never be forgotten."

Demolition of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) facilities started Feb. 14, 2012. Heavy equipment quickly tore through the former Equipment Test Facility, a building that was once used to develop and test many chemical demilitarization processes and techniques. Demolition and debris cleanup is expected to take approximately 3 months.

CMA NEWS | March 2012

ANCDF on the Cutting Edge

Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) managers plan to use a pressurized liquid nitrogen system to perform concrete scabbling in the Munitions Demilitarization Building during closure operations.

When the Nitrocision system is in use, ANCDF Instrument and Calibration Technician Jonathan Whiten will rely on the control panel, left, and backup control panel to monitor the metal tank in front of him, which is called the chiller.

The nitrocision system will precisely shave off predetermined layers of concrete in rooms where liquid agent is known to or potentially have come in contact with the floor. The areas and rooms include the Explosive Containment Vestibule, Explosive Containment Rooms A and B, Munitions Processing Bay, Toxic Cubicle, Upper Munitions Corridor, Lower Munitions Corridor, Buffer Storage Area, Toxic Maintenance Area and the Liquid Incinerator Primary Room. In the hands of trained technicians, this alternative technology is expected to eliminate some early demolition to enlarge doorways and corridors prior to scabbling concrete surfaces (similar in concept to highway repaving projects).

According to the plan, ANCDF nitrocision technicians will use compressed nitrogen ranging from 30,000 psi to 55,000 psi that, in liquid form is between minus 140F and minus 300F. The proven process works mainly by thermal expansion when liquid nitrogen, at extremely high pressure, penetrates the surface of the concrete to remove potentially agent-contaminated surfaces.

ANCDF managers and technicians prefer using nitrocision, in lieu of hydraulic hammers and other demolition equipment. According to Carroll E. Schmidt, ANCDF Closure Manager, "Nitrocision does not produce new or additional waste streams, there is no potential for generating heat or creating a source of ignition, an integrated vacuum minimizes dust generation and material handling and we will not have to remove walls or enlarge openings for traditional machinery.

"And just as important, we will be able to reduce the number of entries into possibly toxic areas. That should improve schedule and operating cost, as well as improve our safety environment through some known risk reduction."

The nitrocision system was installed in January, systemization was completed in February and operations began later that month in the Explosive Containment Vestibule. ANCDF personnel are closely monitoring progress to capture programmatic lessons learned for possible use at other storage and demilitarization sites.

Mechanical Technician Tim Wilson lays out the Nitrocision system's scabble head in preparation for a training session. Systemization on the unit continues, but Wilson and the rest of the Nitrocision team are learning as much as they can so they'll be ready to begin hands-on training when the unit is operational.

Spring forward; clean out!

March 11 marks the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. The time change offers an opportunity to monitor household safety.

- Clean out medicine cabinets and discard any expired medications; some medications are toxic after expiration
- Discard expired chemicals and cleaning products or those no longer required
- Check the status of the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors; replace if necessary
- Replace smoke alarms older than 10 years; replace carbon monoxide detectors older than 5 years – be sure to install detectors on each level of your home. If someone is deaf or hard of hearing, consider installing an alarm with flashing lights
- Review and practice your family's fire escape plan

Following these tips can help you bring in the new season, protecting yourself and your family.

Lights out at Deseret Chemical Depot Storage Area Perimeter

Depot officials have turned off the storage area's perimeter lights—a change of scenery that will not go unrecognized by those who frequently travel through the area after sunset. Now that the storage igloos no longer hold chemical weapons, Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) officials have marked an end of the depot's surety mission and the lights are no longer necessary.

During a ceremony to commemorate the end of DCD's surety mission, DCD Commander Col. Mark Pomeroy recognized the workforce for their dedication to the safe storage operations.

"It's gone," said Pomeroy as the crowd of nearly 100 depot employees cheered. "With the last igloo emptied and the last round destroyed, that mission is now complete."

Since 1942, generations of depot workers have safely stored the single-largest and most diverse stockpile in the United States. It required full-time maintenance, as experienced workers routinely checked and monitored every igloo for leaking munitions, isolated and placed leaking rounds in overpack containers, and transported munitions from one igloo to another for re-warehousing and ultimately to their final destination for destruction.

"Let's remember this day, 1 February 2012. Let's remember our accomplishments, great successes and look forward to our change of mission and close this installation with the same enthusiasm and success with which we operated throughout the last 70 years," remarked Pomeroy.

Before they were shut off for the last time, the Commander asked the crowd to take one last look at the storage area's perimeter lights that have surrounded the chemical weapons stockpile over the years.

And the countdown began, "5, 4, 3, 2, 1," shouted the crowd as they joined Pomeroy in the countdown. The storage area lights went dark and the crowd cheered again. With a few tears in the crowd, the employees marked yet another milestone as the depot moves into closure mode.

From 1962 to 1993, DCD was known as Tooele Army Depot (TEAD) South Area. In July 2013, DCD will officially be transferred and become TEAD South Area once again.

CMA News is produced by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Public Affairs Office.
For more information, call (410) 436-3629 or email hqcmapao@apgea.army.mil.